On root systems in spaces with degenerate metric

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Abstract

A root systems in Carroll spaces with degenerate metric are defined. It is shown that their Cartan matrices and reflection groups are affine. With the help of the geometric consideration the root system structure of affine algebras is determined by a sufficiently simple algorithm.

It is known that nonsemisimple Lie groups and algebras may be obtained by introducing the degenerate (nilpotent) directions into the main notions of semisimple Lie groups and algebras theory [1]. It is algebraic approach to the limit passage from simple to nonsemisimple groups suggested by E.Inönü and E.P.Wigner [2]. A further kind of algebraic contractions is graded contractions [3].

All models of modern physics are appeared due to underlying symmetries. Simple finite Lie algebras and infinite affine Kac-Moody algebras takes an important part in describing such symmetries. Interest in models with nonsemisimple symmetry is growing [4, 5] and this models may be investigated with the help of contractions. There are some models manufactured by contractions from some initial ones, for example usual Toda chains may be obtained from affine Toda chaines by contractions [6, 7], in this case infinite-dimensional affine Lie algebra pass to finite-dimensional simple Lie algebra.

The properties of models with different Lie algebras may be related if there is the relations between their algebras. In this paper relations between root systems of finite/infinite-dimensional algebras are proposed. This relations are determined by geometric way.

It is poorly known [1, 9, 10], that all 3^n n-dimensional spaces of constant curvature may be obtained by multiplications of an orthonormal basis elements of Euclidean space by certain products of the parameters $j_k = 1, \iota_k, i, \ k = 1, \ldots, n$, where the dual units ι_k are nilpotent $\iota_k^2 = 0$ and obey the commutative law of multiplication $\iota_k \iota_m = \iota_m \iota_k \neq 0$. The dual values of the parameters j are corresponded to the spaces with degenerate metrics. The main difference of affine root system is the presence of a special (imaginary) root δ with the nilpotent property $\delta^2 = 0$. A comparison of the nilpotent properties of the imaginary root and of the dual unit suggests that root systems in spaces with degenerated metric correspond to affine algebras. This geometrical interpretation of root system of affine Lie algebras may be a help in understanding their properties.

Kac-Moody algebras are characterized by Chevalley relations

$$[h_i, h_j] = 0, \quad [h_i, e_j] = a_{ij}e_j, \quad [h_i, f_j] = -a_{ij}f_j, \quad [e_i, f_j] = \delta_{ij}h_j, \quad (1)$$

and Serre relations

$$(ade_i)^{1-a_{ij}} e_j = (adf_i)^{1-a_{ij}} f_j = 0,$$
(2)

where $h_i, e_i, f_i, i = 1, 2, ..., r$ are Weyl generators. Cartan matrix $A = (a_{ij})$ may be given algebraically: 1) $a_{ij} \in \mathbb{Z}$, 2) $a_{ij} < 0$ for $i \neq j$, 3) $a_{ij}a_{ji} \leq 3$, 4) $a_{ij} = 0 \iff a_{ji} = 0$, 5) $det(a_{ij}) \neq 0$ — for a simple Lie algebras and 1), 2), 4), as well 3^a) $a_{ij}a_{ji} \leq 4$, 5^a) $det(a_{ij}) = 0$, the equation $\sum a_{ij}x_j = 0$ has only one solution— for an affine algebras. All such matrices are classified and hence all simple and affine Lie algebras are listed. Affine Kac-Moody algebras was discovered by algebraic way [8].

Cartan matrix may be also given geometrically with the help of a root system. A root system of a simple Lie algebra is a finite set of vectors $\tilde{\Pi}_0 = \{\alpha, \beta, \ldots\}$ in Euclidean space V(r) with a positive defined nondegenerate metric if 1) $s_{\alpha}\tilde{\Pi}_0 = \tilde{\Pi}_0$ for all $\alpha \in \tilde{\Pi}_0$; 2) for all $\alpha, \beta \in \tilde{\Pi}_0$, $2n(\alpha, \beta) = \frac{(\alpha, \beta)}{(\alpha, \alpha)} \in \mathbb{Z}$ are integers; 3) the linear span of $\tilde{\Pi}_0$ coincides with $V(r) : \mathcal{L}(\tilde{\Pi}_0) = V(r)$, where

$$s_{\alpha}(\beta) = \beta - 2\frac{(\alpha, \beta)}{(\alpha, \alpha)}\alpha\tag{3}$$

is the reflection of β with respect to α . A subset $K \subset \Pi_0$ is called a basis $K = \{\alpha_i, i = 1, ..., r\}$ of root system Π_0 if the following conditions hold: 1) K form a basis of V(r), 2) $\forall \alpha \in \Pi_0$ $\alpha = \sum_{i=1}^r m_i \alpha_i$, where $\alpha_i \in K$, $m_i \in \mathbb{Z}$ and all $m_i \geq 0$ (positive roots) or all $m_i \leq 0$ (negative roots). A matrix

$$(\tilde{A})_{ij} = n(\alpha_i, \alpha_j) = 2\frac{(\alpha_i, \alpha_j)}{(\alpha_i, \alpha_i)}, \quad \alpha_i, \alpha_j \in K$$
 (4)

is called a Cartan matrix A of root system. A set of reflections form a group W_0 called a Weyl group of root system.

Consider (r+1)-dimensional vector space V(r,1) equipped with a degenerate metric of signature $(0,+,\ldots,+,)$, i.e. the scalar product of vectors $\nu=(\nu_0,\nu_1,\ldots,\nu_r)$ and $w=(w_0,w_1,\ldots,w_r)$ is define as $(\nu,w)=\sum_{k=1}^r\nu_kw_k$. According with geometric viewpoint V(r,1) is a product bundle with r-dimensional Euclidean subspace V(r) as a base and one-dimensional orthogonal to V(r) subspace as a fiber. The projection is given by mapping $\pi:V(r,1)\to V(r)$. At r=3 the space V(3,1) may be interpreted as one of the possible four-dimensional space-time models, namely Carroll kinematic [10]–[12]. Therefore we shall call V(r,1) as Carroll space.

Above mentioned property of the imaginary root gives reazons for the following definitions. A vector set $\tilde{\Pi}$ in Carroll space V(r,1) is called degenerate root system (DRS), if the properties 1)–3) of root system (with the replacement $\tilde{\Pi}_0$ by $\tilde{\Pi}$, V(r) by V(r,1)) and 4) $\forall \alpha \in \tilde{\Pi} \ \pi \alpha \neq 0$ are satisfied. A root system is called reduced if there are no parallel roots (the roots α and $-\alpha$ are antiparallel). A root system $\tilde{\Pi}$ is called reducible if $V(r,1) = V_1 \oplus V_2$ and $\tilde{\Pi} = \Pi_1 \cup \Pi_2$, where Π_1 and Π_2 are the root systems in V_1 and V_2 respectively. Otherwise a root system is called irreducible. The reduced irreducible root system will be denoted by Π . A basis $B = \{\alpha_i, i = 0, ..., r\}$ of Π is defined similarly to the ordinary root system. A matrix \bar{A} , defined by (4) for $\alpha_i, \alpha_j \in B$ is called a Cartan matrix of DRS. It is natural to associate with the imaginary root the vector ε_0 in V(r, 1), pointing out the degeneracy direction.

Proposition 1. The projection π of degenerate root system Π onto V(r) gives the root system $\tilde{\Pi}_0$, $\pi:\Pi\to\tilde{\Pi}_0$.

Proof. Let us separate the vectors of DRS $\Pi = \{\alpha, \beta, ...\}$ onto collinear and perpendicular to ε_0 components: $\alpha = \alpha_0 + \alpha_\perp$, $\beta = \beta_0 + \beta_\perp$, From the property 4) of DRS we get $\alpha_\perp \neq 0$, $\beta_\perp \neq 0$, The reflections in Π

are passed into reflections in $\tilde{\Pi}_0$ under the projection $\pi: s_{\alpha_0+\alpha_\perp}(\beta_0+\beta_\perp) = s_{\alpha_\perp}(\beta_\perp)$, i.e. for $\tilde{\Pi}_0 = \{\alpha_\perp, \beta_\perp, \ldots\}$ the property 1) of root system is held. Further from $n(\alpha, \beta) = n(\alpha_\perp, \beta_\perp)$ it follows that the property 2) of root system is fulfilled. Finally, from $\mathcal{L}(\Pi) = V(r, 1)$ we obtain that the linear span of $\tilde{\Pi}_0$ coincides with V(r), i.e. the property 3) is valid. Therefore $\tilde{\Pi}_0$ is a root system of simple Lie algebra.

Remark. An unreduced root system may be obtained at the projection of the reduced DRS. Running ahead note that it will occur if DRS corresponds to the twisted affine Lie algebra $\hat{A}_{2l}^{(2)}$.

Proposition 2. The Cartan matrix of the degenerate root system is affine.

Proof. It is enough to show that the conditions 1), 2), 3^a , 4), 5^a for affine Cartan matrix follow from the definition of degenerate root system. The integerness 1) follows from the property 2) of DRS. Further, similarly to the case of ordinary root system [13] one may show that the difference $\alpha - \beta$ is the root if $n(\alpha, \beta) > 0$, i.e. the angle between projections of vectors onto V(r) is acute. For simple (basis) roots $n(\alpha, \beta) < 0$, i.e. the angle between projections is obtuse therefore the condition 2) is held. Let $\alpha, \beta \in \Pi$ are an arbitrary roots. We have the equation $n(\alpha, \beta)n(\beta, \alpha) = 4\cos\phi$, where in contrast to nondegenerate case, ϕ is the angle between the projections of vectors onto V(r). Since the collinearity of projections does not means the collinearity of vectors itself, the case $\phi = 0$ can not be rejected now, in full correspondence with 3^a). The condition 4) follows from the symmetry of scalar product. It remains to proof the conditions 5). It is clear that all metric properties of DRS are determined by the properties of vector projections. It was shown in Proposition 1 that these projections form the root system of simple Lie algebra. All basis roots of DRS are projected onto subspace V(r), forming nonacute angles with each other. In this case one of the roots becomes linearly dependent since the number of basis roots of root system, forming by the projections of roots of DRS, is just one less. Therefore, the condition 5) is held for the Gramm matrix, composed by the basis roots of DRS. Dividing its columns by corresponding square length of basis roots, we obtain the same property for Cartan matrix.

Degenerated root systems are called *equivalent*, if their Cartan matrices are the same. Since Cartan matrix of DRS is determined by its projection an equivalence class is formed by all DRS with the same projections onto V(r). In general case the projection Π onto V(r) is not contained in Π . Π is

called canonical DRS if $\pi\Pi \setminus P = \Pi_0 \subset \Pi$, where $P = \{\beta \in \pi\Pi \mid 2\beta \in \pi\Pi\}$ or $P = \{\beta \in \pi\Pi \mid \frac{1}{2}\beta \in \pi\Pi\}$, i.e. if reduced root system Π_0 is contained in subspace V(r).

Let us construct the basis $B = \{\alpha_0, K\} = \{\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r\}$ of canonical DRS. It is clear that as K should be taken the basis of root system Π_0 . It remains to construct the (r+1)-th basis root $\alpha_0 = \pi \alpha_0 + \delta \epsilon_0 \in V(r, 1)$, $\delta \in R$, that is in fact to choose the projection $\pi \alpha_0$ in subspace V(r) in such a way that the set of vectors $\{\pi \alpha_0, K\}$ generate according to the Proposition 2 affine Cartan matrix. It is clear that $\pi \alpha_0$ is such linear combination of vectors from K, that $(\pi \alpha_0, \alpha_k) \leq 0, k = 1, \dots, r$. As it was mentioned in Proposition 1 $\tilde{\Pi}_0 = \pi \Pi$ may be both reduced and irreducible root system.

Let $\tilde{\Pi}_0 = \Pi_0$ be a reduced root system, then $\pi \alpha_0 \in \Pi_0$. When roots of different length are presented in $K = \{\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_r\}$, then two cases are possible.

- 1) $|\pi\alpha_0| = |\alpha_l|$. All root systems Π_0 of simple Lie algebras have the highest vector $\theta = \sum_{k=1}^r a_k \alpha_k$, where a_k are the marks on Dynkin diagramms of simple Lie algebras. The properties $(\theta, \alpha_k) \leq 0, k = 1, \ldots, r$, are satisfied for this highest root and also $|\theta| = |\alpha_l|$. (When all roots in K has the same length, we consider their as long roots). By setting $\pi\alpha_0 = -\theta$ we obtain the bases B of root systems of all untwisted affine algebras [8].
- 2) $|\pi\alpha_0| = |\alpha_s|$. Root systems Π_0 of simple Lie algebras C_r, B_r, F_4, G_2 contain, except θ , the root $\tilde{\theta} = \sum_{k=1}^r \tilde{a}_k \alpha_k$, where \tilde{a}_k are Kac marks on Dynkin diagramm of affine algebras. The properties $(\tilde{\theta}, \alpha_k) \leq 0, k = 1, \ldots, r$, are satisfied and $|\tilde{\theta}| = |\alpha_s|$. We obtain the bases B of root systems of all twisted affine Lie algebras, except $\hat{A}_{2r}^{(2)}$, by setting $\pi\alpha_0 = -\tilde{\theta}$ [8].

Let now $\Pi_0 = \Pi_0 \cup P$ be a nonreduced root system (there are collinear vectors with the length twice as little of the length of long roots $\alpha_l \in \Pi_0$ or with the length twice as much of the length of short roots $\alpha_s \in \Pi_0$). If $\pi\alpha_0 \in \Pi_0$, then it follows from above consideration, that $\pi\Pi = \Pi_0$ is reduced root system. But in our case $\tilde{\Pi}_0$ is nonreduced, therefore the required DRS can not be constructed in this way. It remains to regard the case $\pi\alpha_0 \notin \Pi_0$. When $|\pi\alpha_0| = \frac{1}{2}|\alpha_l|$, then $\pi\alpha_0 = -\frac{1}{2}\theta$ and when $|\pi\alpha_0| = 2|\alpha_l|$, then $\pi\alpha_0 = -2\theta$, where θ is a highest root of Π_0 . In this case we obtain the bases B of root systems of twisted affine algebras $\hat{A}_{2r}^{(2)}$ [8].

Thus we have constructed the bases of root systems of all affine Lie algebras, relying on the properties of root systems of simple Lie algebras and on

the properties of DRS.

Reflections of DRS form Weyl group W. This group is generated by the basic reflections $s_{\alpha_0}, s_{\alpha_1}, \ldots, s_{\alpha_r}$. It is obvious that last r basic reflections generate the subgroup W_0 . Consider the k-th power of translation operator of root x along ε_0 , which is constructed from reflections

$$t_{\alpha}^{k}(x) \stackrel{df}{=} s_{k\delta\varepsilon_{0}-\alpha}s_{\alpha}(x) = x - 2\frac{(\alpha, x)}{(\alpha, \alpha)}k\delta\varepsilon_{0},$$
 (5)

where α , $k\delta\varepsilon_0 - \alpha$, $x \in \Pi$, $(\alpha, x) \neq 0$. The set of translations generates a commutative translation subgroup T. It is easily to show that Weyl group W is a semidirect product of its subgroup $W = W_0 \triangleright T$.

Now we determine the structure of DRS. It is enough to take into account the fact, that the root length and its component ε_0 are not changed under reflections: $w(\delta\varepsilon_0) = \delta\varepsilon_0, w \in W_0$, i.e. subgroup W_0 acts transitively on the set of equal length roots with the same ε_0 coordinate and to construct the shifts operators for different length roots. The complete root system is the join of imaginary and real roots: $\Pi = \Pi_{re} \cup \Pi_{im}$, where $\Pi_{im} = \{n\delta\varepsilon_0 | n \in Z\}$. It remains to build Π_{re} .

Consider first Π_{re} of untwisted affine Lie algebras. The root α_0 has maximal length $|\alpha_0| = |\alpha_l|$ for this algebras. The subset of shifted long roots $\{\Pi_0^l + \delta \varepsilon_0\}$ is obtained by acting of reflections from W_0 on $\alpha_0 = \pi \alpha_0 + \delta \varepsilon_0$, $\pi \alpha_0 \in \Pi_0$. The short root α_m is shifted by operator $t_{\alpha_{m-1}}(\alpha_m) = \alpha_m + \delta \varepsilon_0$, where α_{m-1} is a long root, connected with α_m on Dynkin diagramm. Here m=1 for $C_r^{(1)}$, m=2 for $G_2^{(1)}$, m=3 for $F_4^{(1)}$, m=r for $B_r^{(1)}$. Using reflections from W_0 we obtain a set $\Pi_0^s + \delta \varepsilon_0$ of shifted short roots. As far as $\Pi_0^l \cup \Pi_0^s = \Pi_0$ for untwisted algebras, then $\Pi_0 \subset V(r)$ pass to $\Pi_0 + \delta \varepsilon_0 \subset V(r, 1)$. The next step is the shift of long root α_0 : $t_{\alpha_p}(\alpha_0) = \alpha_0 + \delta \varepsilon_0$, where p=6 for $E_6^{(1)}$, p=2 for $B_r^{(1)}$, $D_r^{(1)}$, p=1 for remaining untwisted affine algebras. The repetition of shift procedure of long and short roots leads to the set $\{\Pi_0 + 2\delta \varepsilon_0\}$. Shift of the set Π_0 in negative direction of axis ε_0 is constructed in a similar way. Thus DRS of untwisted affine Lie algebras is as follows

$$\Pi_{re} = \{ \Pi_0 + n\delta\varepsilon_0 | n \in Z \}. \tag{6}$$

For twisted algebras (except of A_{2r}^2) the root α_0 has minimal length $|\alpha_0| = |\alpha_s|$. The subset of short shifted roots $\{\Pi_0^s + \delta \varepsilon_0\}$ is obtained by acting of reflections from W_0 on $\alpha_0 = \pi \alpha_0 + \delta \varepsilon_0$, $\pi \alpha_0 \in \Pi_0$. The long root α_m is shifted

by operator $t_{\alpha_{m-1}}(\alpha_m) = \alpha_m + 2\delta\varepsilon_0$, where α_{m-1} is a short nonorthogonal to α_m root. Here m=1 for $D_{r+1}^{(2)}$, m=2 for $D_4^{(3)}$, m=3 for $E_6^{(2)}$, m=r for $A_{2r-1}^{(2)}$. The set $\{\Pi_0^l + 2\delta\varepsilon_0\}$ is obtained with the help of reflections from W_0 . The next step is the shift of short roots. The root α_0 is shifted by $t_{\alpha_p}(\alpha_0) = \alpha_0 + \delta\varepsilon_0 = \pi\alpha_0 + 2\delta\varepsilon_0$, p=1 for $D_4^{(3)}$, $E_6^{(2)}$, p=2 for $A_{2r-1}^{(2)}$ and the root α_r is shifted by $t_{\alpha_{r-1}}^2(\alpha_r) = \alpha_r + 2\delta\varepsilon_0$ in the case of $D_{2r-1}^{(2)}$ algebra. (The operator $t_{\alpha_{r-1}} = s_{\delta\varepsilon_0 - \alpha_{r-1}} s_{\alpha_{r-1}}$ is not defined now because $\delta\varepsilon_0 - \alpha_{r-1} \notin \Pi$, therefore we have use the operator $t_{\alpha_{r-1}}^2$). The shifted short roots are transformed by subgroup W_0 to the set $\{\Pi_0^s + 2\delta\varepsilon_0\}$. The set $\{\Pi_0^l + 2\delta\varepsilon_0\}$ of shifted long roots is transformed by W_0 and by the operator $t_{\alpha_{m-1}}^2(\alpha_m) = \alpha_m + 4\delta\varepsilon_0$ to the set $\{\Pi_0^l + 4\delta\varepsilon_0\}$. Π_{re} of twisted affine algebras (except of $A_{2r}^{(2)}$) is the join of the sets of long and short shifted roots.

$$\Pi_{re} = \{ \Pi_0^s + n\delta\varepsilon_0 \} \cup \{ \Pi_0^l + nk\delta\varepsilon_0 \}, \ n \in \mathbb{Z}, \ k = 2, 3.$$
 (7)

Now we find the construction of Π_{re} for algebras $A_{2r}^{(2)}$, where $|\alpha_0| = \frac{1}{2}|\alpha_l| < |\alpha_s| < |\alpha_l|$ and $\pi\alpha_0 \notin \Pi_0$. The operator t_{α_0} shifts the short root $\alpha_1 \in \Pi_0$, $|\alpha_1| = |\alpha_s|$ on $2\delta\varepsilon_0$: $t_{\alpha_0}(\alpha_1) = \alpha_1 + 2\delta\varepsilon_0$. The operator $t_{\alpha_1} = s_{(\delta\varepsilon_0 - \alpha_1)}s_{\alpha_1}$ is not defined since $\delta\varepsilon_0 - \alpha_1 \notin \Pi$, therefore the shift operators of short roots α_k look as follows: $t_{\alpha_k}^2(\alpha_{k+1}) = \alpha_{k+1} + 2\delta\varepsilon_0$, $k = 1, 2, \ldots, r - 2$. The shifted short roots are transformed by W_0 to the set $\Pi_0^s + 2\delta\varepsilon_0$. The short roots are shifted with the help of operators $t_{\alpha_0}^n$, $t_{\alpha_k}^n$, $n \in Z$ on $2n\delta\varepsilon_0$ and then are reproduced by W_0 . As a result we obtain a subset $\Pi_1 = \{\Pi_0^s + 2n\delta\varepsilon_0 | n \in Z\}$. The long root $\alpha_r \in \Pi_0$, $|\alpha_r| = |\alpha_l|$ is shifted on $4\delta\varepsilon_0$: $t_{\alpha_{r-1}}^2(\alpha_r) = \alpha_r + 4\delta\varepsilon_0$. Similarly, using the shift operators $t_{\alpha_{r-1}}^n$ and reflections from W_0 , we obtain the subset of long roots $\Pi_2 = \{\Pi_0^l + 4n\delta\varepsilon_0 | n \in Z\}$.

It remains to explain the construction of roots of length $|\alpha_0| = \frac{1}{2}|\alpha_l|$. The reflections from W_0 transform the basis root $\alpha_0 = \pi \alpha_0 + \delta \varepsilon_0$ to the set of roots $\{\frac{1}{2}\Pi_0^l + \delta \varepsilon_0\}$, since $\pi \alpha_0 = -\frac{1}{2}\theta$. Operator $t_{\alpha_1}^2$ shift α_0 on $2\delta \varepsilon_0$: $t_{\alpha_1}^2(\alpha_0) = \alpha_0 + 2\delta \varepsilon_0 = \pi \alpha_0 + 3\delta \varepsilon_0$ and then this shifted root is reproduced by reflections from subgroup W_0 to the set $\{\frac{1}{2}\Pi_0^l + 3\delta \varepsilon_0\}$. Operators $t_{\alpha_1}^{2n}$, $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ and reflections from W_0 generate the subset $\Pi_3 = \{\frac{1}{2}\Pi_0^l + (2n+1)\delta \varepsilon_0 | n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$. Then the set of real roots of $A_{2r}^{(2)}$ is the join of subsets

$$\Pi_{re} = \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \Pi_0^l + (2n+1)\delta\varepsilon_0 \right\} \cup \left\{ \Pi_0^s + 2n\delta\varepsilon_0 \right\} \cup \left\{ \Pi_0^l + 4n\delta\varepsilon_0 \right\}, \ n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$
 (8)

Thus, which the help of geometric consideration using shifts operators of basic roots along ε_0 and reflections from subgroup W_0 we have obtained sufficiently simply the structure of DRS in Carroll spaces. It is natural that our results are coincided with the analogous ones for affine root systems in pure algebraic consideration.

An analysis of other types of Kac-Moody algebras which are discussed in literature shows that their Cartan matrices may be obtained with the help of geometric consideration. For example, root systems in pseudoeuclidean spaces are connected with hyperbolic Kac-Moody algebras [14] and Borcherds algebras [15],[16]. In this case the algebraic condition $a_{ii} = 0$ on symmetrized Cartan matrix is corresponded geometrically to the case, when a basic root belong to the con (x, x) = 0 and the condition $a_{ii} < 0$ means, that basis roots have both positive and negative length, i.e. they are situated in different con sectors.

Root systems in the space with twice degenerate metric are connected apparently with toroidal algebras [17],[18]. This geometric interpretation make possible to establish some properties of their Cartan matrices. So the condition 5^a) is changed and the property $a_{ij} < 0$ at $i \neq j$ is not more held since it is impossible to distribute n + 2 projections of basis roots on n-dimensional Euclidean space so that all angles between these roots are nonacute, i.e. all scalar products between them are nonpositive. It is clear that this imply the modification of Serre relations.

A generalization of the observation indicated in the letter leads to the suggestion: to regard root systems in spaces of constant curvature (especially with degenerate metric) and to construct corresponding Lie algebras. Work on this problem is continued.

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